

OBITUARY

BRIGADIER GENERAL REGINALD GEORGE BURTON

With deep regret we record the death of this old and valued member of our Society which took place at his residence, Bafford Grange, Charlton Kings, Gloucestershire, on the 2nd February 1951 in his 87th year.

Brigadier General Burton was the fourth son of the late General E. F. Burton of the Madras Staff Corps, all of whose nine sons—only one now living—followed their father's profession. He was commissioned in the First West India Regiment on the 23rd August 1884, and after a period of service in Jamaica came to India on appointment to the Bengal Staff Corps and the Hyderabad Contingent. Following a period of service on the H.Q. Staff at Simla he commanded the 94th Russell's Infantry (Hyderabad Contingent) from 1909 to 1913. In 1915 he was Staff Officer with the Force landing in Gallipoli where he was wounded and invalided home. In 1917 he was Commandant of the Cadet College, Wellington, Nilgiris, and in 1918 Commander of the Madras Brigade Area.

After retirement at Cheltenham he was 23 years Manager of the Boys' Sunday Schools, and 9 years Vice-Chairman of the Hospital.

In 1901 he married Elsie Mary, daughter of Mr. William Lumb of Whitehaven, and leaves one son, Reginald William Boteler Burton, Fellow and Vice-Provost of Oriel College, Oxford University who served in the Air Force all through the War and was mentioned in despatches.

R. G. Burton inherited both sporting and literary tastes. His 'History of the Hyderabad Contingent' was a masterpiece of its kind. His other publications included, 'Tropics and Snows' 1898; 'Sport and Wild Life in the Deccan' 1928; 'A Book of man-eaters' 1931; 'The Book of the Tiger' 1933; 'The Tiger Hunters' 1936. He contributed a number of articles to the '*Field*' and other papers in England connected with Natural History. He also wrote a number of books on military history and historical works on Indian campaigns for the General Staff, and published three volumes on Napoleon's campaigns, one of which is still the standard book on the campaigns in Italy.

When in Russia in 1893, he followed the track of Napoleon's invasion and afterwards passed as interpreter in the Russian Language. He was examiner in military history and strategy for the Indian Staff College in 1910.

Brig. Burton joined the Society in 1898 and contributed many notes and articles to the pages of its journal. A few may be mentioned: 'Bull Terrier and Tiger' and 'Jungle Notes' in Vol. 12; 'Wild Animals at Water' vol. 14; 'Big Game' vol. 16; 'Some Notes on Tigers and Panthers' vol. 17; 'The Drinking Habits of Wild Animals'; 'Fear of Man in Wild Animals'; 'Some Natural History Notes on Tiger';

'Notes on Panthers'; 'Old Deccan Days'; 'Wild Beasts—Real and Apocryphal' in vols. 18 to 21, and 'Panthers' vol. 26 (pp. 266-278).

Burton greatly enjoyed the extensive experiences of tiger shooting which he had with his brother Robert during the earlier years of his service with the Hyderabad Contingent during which they killed many tigers.

The class of sportsman-naturalist of whom R. G. Burton was a notable representative is fast vanishing from India to the lasting loss of the country to which they gave the best years of their lives.

R. W. B.